

INFOCUS

The Official Publication of The Jamaican Canadian Association

AUGUST ISSUE 2014



THE JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS
YOU CONTROL THE FUTURE
**JCA 12TH ANNUAL
SCHOLARSHIP
AWARDS**
DINNER AND DANCE
TIME 6:30PM
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2014
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: RATHIKA SITSABANESAN,
MP, SCARBOROUGH, ROUGE RIVER
DANCING BY: **DJ FUNKY**
TICKETS: ADULT \$50 CHILDREN \$25
INFO 416-746-5772 WWW.JCAONTARIO.ORG
Jamaican Canadian Centre
985 ARROW RD. TORONTO

RESPECT
&
DIGNITY

DIVERSITY

INTEGRITY

ADVOCACY

EXCELLENCE IN
SERVICE

The New JCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



New JCA Board Members: from Left to Right - Cheryl Ewan, Director-at-large; Tonya Brown, Treasurer; Barry Coke, President; Kerry-Ann English, Director of Communications and Rosemarie Bryan, Director of Fundraising; Missing from photo Audrey Walters, Vice-President and Tanya Chin, Executive Secretary

JCA/CAFCAN United Way Fundraiser

The staff of JCA/CAFCAN are inviting all members, family, friends and associates to participate in the upcoming **2014 Enbridge CN Tower Climb for United Way on Sunday, October 19, 2014**. Save the date and get ready to conquer all 1,776 steps of Toronto's most famous landmark.

Save the date and start practicing to beat the times of last year participants. If you are unable to walk the stairs, sponsor a climber and or have someone walk the stairs on your behalf.

For further information call: Grace Williams
(416) 746-5772 ext. 241



CAFCAN Board L-R Maureen Henry, Secretary; Diane Davy, Treasurer; Kemi Jacobs, Chair; Shadya Yassin . York Youth Coalition.



JCA Independence Gala L to R: Mr. Kennedy Obioha, Toronto Film School; Shawnee Hardware CAFCAN's Director at Large; Ms Margaret Walker, JAMPRO's representative and Mr. Everton Gordon, CAFCAN's Interim CEO



Audrey Walters-Vice President, Cheryl Ann Ewan-Director at Large and Audrey Campbell-Immediate Past President presenting a gift on behalf of the JCA to Her Excellency Mrs Sheila Sealy Monteith

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Call to Action



Barrington Coke President of Jamaican Canadian Association

During this our 52nd anniversary as a community organization within the Canadian society, and through this transition period, we should pause and reflect on our accomplishments. We have:

- Acquired our own building
- Provided strong community leadership to foster improved Community relations
- Providing a variety of Social Services to at risk members of our community
- Elevated Jamaican status and culture in the GTA (flag raising since 1985 is one example)

These are great achievements. However, we can exponentially improve on these significant gains. We are grateful for the hard work and dedication of our founding members and other trail blazers.

Our athletes and scholars continue to excel, setting examples that continue to illuminate the world. We as an organization can shine as well. To do so, we must focus on long term sustainability, through:

- Continually telling the JCA story
- Increasing our visibility in the community
- Financial self-sufficiency
- Increased membership, especially among our young and middle aged people
- Enhancement of member benefits
- Making the Jamaica Canadian Association the first logical choice to which our community turns

I imagine JCA as an organization that:

- Is respected in the community for fostering harmonious and good relationships.
- Fosters collaboration within the black and Caribbean communities, advocating for youth employment, and a seat on the numerous boards and agencies.
- Welcomes Jamaican newcomers and provides guidance to help them navigate their new surroundings.
- Provides an environment for members to socialize and network.
- Provides support to seniors,, and mentors and supports youth education.
- Provides opportunities for entrepreneurs and small community businesses.
- Have adequate financial resources. So that we are not encumber in delivering these services.

As we continue the transition, a lot of work will be required to develop the vision, conduct organizational planning, program monitoring and establishing and maintaining accountability.

This is our chance to be involved. Be a part of JCA history. Our community is rich with an abundance of skills and knowledge that could be helpful to the JCA in this critical phase.

How many of us have thought in one way or another that JCA could have done more?

How many have ideas of how to do, or improve things

How many then say "how can I help?"

This is how you can help! Please call or email the JCA and indicate your interest in volunteering for one or more of the many committees with specific tasks, aimed at achieving our vision.

Thank you in advance for serving. You will be a part of history, contributing to the JCA legacy, while supporting and assisting the community.



Audrey Walters Vice-
President of JCA

Dear Members:

To say that I am honoured to be chosen to serve you in the capacity of Vice President is an understatement. When our mother decided to move my siblings and I from Montreal to Toronto, we felt that the culture shock of "Jane & Finch" was greater and more foreign to us than the cold winter of February 18, 1973 when we landed in Canada.

We were not aware that Jane & Finch was supposedly a concrete jungle meant to close in a certain "type" of immigrant. My mother, Ruth-Ann Walters was unfazed by the unwarranted reputation of the people who resided there. Her strength of character, brilliant mind and her capacity to parent shaped my siblings and I to be strong responsible individuals. I live by those creeds and I hope that as you each get to know me better in my role as the Vice President of the JCA, you will begin to understand what I stand for as a woman, as a leader, as a servant and as a child of God.

My commitment to each member of the JCA is to ensure that we build on the past, design the present and plan for the future. We must be fearless as a people and be very clear about what it is that we want to achieve. In my role as your Vice President, I plan to observe the strengths of my team, empowering them to excellence. As is my discipline, I will work collaboratively with my team, JCA members and the community-at-large to achieve the excellence for which we as a community are known.

By the time of the issuance of this newsletter, the JCA board will have met to strategize how we will position the JCA in terms of Services, Growth, Purpose and Relevance. We will need to build wealth into the organization so that our service offerings to our community in general and to our members specifically, may be executed.

While the JCA is now 52 years old and much has been done to sustain us, maintaining our relevance is paramount. It is my hope to attract the excellent talent that exists within our Community, in positions of leadership, service and wisdom. We invite you in. The tone and culture of the JCA will continue to be respectful to our founders and to the tireless members and volunteers who have committed much, while asking for nothing besides acknowledgement and due respect. We, the new Board of the JCA commit to those ideals and ask that you please work with us to produce the excellence that is innate in us as a people. We bless the soil of our birth. The soil that we so affectionately refer to as "The Rock". To everyone, please be well and I look forward to serving you.

Respectfully yours,

Audrey M. Walters, Vice President –JCA



JamaicanCanadianAssociation
Saturday Morning Tutorial Program

**We Invite You
To Join Our Tutors' Club**



For Information contact:
smt@jcaontario.org
 416-746-5772
 647-782-9855

Update on the Transition of JCA – August 2014

Hope everyone is enjoying the summer. The Transition Team remains active supporting the board and organization in transitioning to three new entities. Since the AGM, we have met to address the following:

- Received an update from lawyer Cory Mills on the status of CAFCAN's application for charitable status
- Identified risks associated with the transition and possible mitigation strategies
- Facilitated orientation sessions for JCA and CAFCAN Board of Directors
- Implemented a pilot mentoring initiative for JCA board members to support the learning of their respective roles and provide historical context
- Met with JCA and CAFCAN's Executive Secretary's to review the current duties and recommend a revised process for all administrative related tasks
- Confirmed a pro bono facilitator to conduct a one day session on board governance for both boards; this will take place in September
- Identified to need to create measures of success for the transition of JCA, the JCA and CAFCAN. What does success look like for JCA? Share your thoughts with us.

On the Horizon

1. At the special membership meeting on April 27, 2014, the following motion was passed:

Motion moved by G. Gordon for the Transition Team to undertake a review of the committee structure in consultation with the Membership during the 2014 – 2015 fiscal year. The Transition Team will report back with recommendations by the May 2015 AGM.

Seconded by R. Walker. None opposed. Motion carried.

As a result, the Transition Team will begin consulting with you to discuss the committee structure and your recommendations to make them more effective and/or restructure them. The committees up for discussion are:

- | | | |
|------------|-----------------------|----------|
| ▪ Women's | ▪ Education & Culture | ▪ Policy |
| ▪ Building | ▪ Membership | |
| ▪ Youth | ▪ Awards | |

COMMUNITY BIDS FAREWELL TO OUR HIGH COMMISSIONER AND CONSUL GENERAL

On Monday, August 11th the Community gathered at the Jamaican Canadian Centre to bid a sad farewell to the High Commissioner of Jamaica to Canada, Her Excellency Mrs Sheila Sealy Monteith and the Consul General of Jamaica at Toronto, Mr Seth George Ramocan. There were roughly 300 people in attendance which included, the Hon. Noel Arscott, Minister of Local Government & Community Development; members of the diplomatic core; the Hon. Mitzi Hunter; Deputy Chief Peter Sloly and members of the Clergy. Guests were treated to performances by Letna Allen-Rowe, The Heritage Singers and Jimmy Reid. JCA's President, Barrington Coke, welcomed everyone to the Jamaican Canadian Association. Tributes were lauded on both by the community for their close to 5 years of service.

The High Commissioner and the Consul General thanked everyone in attendance for their support and friendship. The High Commissioner will be returning to Jamaica on August 22nd to her new assignment at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Consul General is slated to return to Jamaica in November. The reception was organized by the Jamaican Community Special Projects Committee. This standing committee is comprised of various community organizations, including the JCA, responsible for coordinating the Farewells and Welcomes for the High Commissioners and Consul Generals.

- We look forward to hearing your thoughts on how to get more people involved.
2. Open House – the Transition Team will organize another JCA open house in the coming months.
 3. Charitable Foundation – the Nominating Committee chaired by Dan Hamilton is beginning the process of recruiting for the Foundation’s board of directors. If you or anyone you know is interested please contact Dan at director@jcaontario.org. Details about the recruitment process will be shared in the near future.
 4. Host a formal check-in with the CAFCAN board to ensure they are sufficiently supported.
 5. Review the 2014 JCA Trustee report and prepare a report on division of assets for the respective boards. This is required by the social services funders.

As a reminder, below are the strategic pillars and priorities you agreed to at the June 2013 special membership meeting. We will continue to highlight and showcase these to ensure the membership and community understand where we are heading.

Four strategic pillars

These pillars identify the organization’s role and contribution to building and strengthening the community.

Build capacity	Redefine leadership	Embrace collaboration	Support innovation
of the Jamaican, Caribbean, Black, African-Canadian communities – focus on individual and collective economic development, education, immediate needs, advocacy, policy & root causes	using a 21 st century definition of leadership that is a more inclusive definition that is about teaching, sharing and working together	build relationships with new partners, work together for the collective good; share knowledge	test new ideas, initiatives, ways of working, take risks

Amendment of Age for Immigrant and Refugee Children coming to Canada

Effective August 1, 2014, Canadian immigration laws have been amended so that the definition of a dependent child will now be any individual under the age of 19 years as opposed the previous under 21 years of age. This adjustment means that unmarried dependents over the age of 19 years will no longer be eligible to be included by their parents in applications for immigration or refugee status. Previously, an exception to this regulation usually applied to full-time students over 21 years that are financially dependent on their parents – this is no longer the case.

Priority Areas

JCA focus will be on the following areas. ALL activities, initiatives should fall under one of these Areas.

Renewed focus (5 key areas)	Education Definition: building individual skills – financial literacy, computer training, planning for retirement, citizenship classes	Culture Definition: preserving and promoting Jamaican, Caribbean, African culture	Advocacy Definition: addressing issues that adversely impact the Jamaican, Caribbean, African communities	Community Hub Definition: a gathering space for community events – social, political, educational	Youth Definition: creating a ‘village’ for children & youth – mentorship, tutoring, skills building, promoting education
Examples of Programs/ Initiatives/ Actions	International Women’s Day, CPR training, Health fair	Jamaican cooking classes, Jamaican independence day activities, heritage classes, traditional dance classes	Pre-election debates, policy/position papers, partnerships with other organizations/ networks on policy issues	Senior’s club, private events, fundraising events (other organizations), Jamaica Consul General/ Jamaican Government events, senior’s brunch, domino club, networking events	Scholarships, Saturday Morning Tutorial Program, mentoring initiatives, summer employment/ training, physical activity classes, children’s Christmas party, volunteer placements
Demographic/ Target Audience	Working age adults, seniors	Youth, working age adults, seniors	Wider community, political/ community leaders		Children & youth
Revenue Generation	Membership fees, fee for service (user pay), free	Membership fees, fee for service (user pay), free	None	Hall rental	Combination of fee for service (user pay) & free

Respectfully,

Barry Coke

Erma Collins

Miah Bailey

Audrey Campbell

Herman Stewart

Adaoma Patterson

Roy Williams

JCA Member Activities – summer in Review

This summer has been a busy one for the JCA-Membership activities. We had a Family Day Picnic at the Victoria Lioness Pavilion in Cobourg Ontario which was full of fun for the entire family. The barbecues were light and the children ran the open field. Members sat under the cabana, some played dominos and others went to the water park. This scenic location was also equipped with a beach about 5 minutes walk away from the JCA occupied pavilion.

JCA celebrated Jamaica’s emancipation from British colonization with a series of events. The Annual **Flag Raising Ceremony was on Sunday August 3, 2014** at the Toronto City Hall, Nathan Philips Square. Among the attendees were Mr. Seth Ramocan, Consul General, Dr. Lola Ramocan, Hon. Mitzie Hunter, MPP of Scarborough-Guildwood and Toronto’s Major Rob Ford. The Flag Raising was immediately followed by the **Independence Church Service at Faith Sanctuary.**

Clergy from seven different faith groups officiated. The program started with the processional, *Chariots of Fire*, by Organist Christ Clarke followed by Placing of the Flags by the Jamaica Ex-Soldiers. The Canadian and the Jamaican National Anthems were led by Abigail Wellington and Donnett Thompson-Hall after which Rev. Desmond McKenzie of Faith Sanctuary welcomed the audience and offered the Opening prayer. Psalms 133 and 134 was the Scripture reading by Chantelle Bishop. Mr. Seth George Ramocan, Jamaica’s Consul General at Toronto delivered Prime Minister Portia Simpson’s message then the congregation repeated the National Pledge.

Stirring musical selections (solos) were presented by Donnett Thompson-Hall, Marie English-Critchlow, and Evangelist Fitz Aransevia. The Independence Dance Troupe performed and La-Toya Hanchard recited an original poem. Pastor Dr. Hazel Hanson of Faith Deliverance International Ministries offered Prayer for the Nations and Rev. Ceibert Adamson of Deliverance Tabernacle delivered the Charge to the Youth. New Hope Children’s Home near Mandeville, Jamaica was designated to be the recipient of part proceeds of the offering that was taken.

On **Saturday, August 9, 2014** under the distinguished patronage of the High Commissioner of Jamaica, Her Excellency Mrs. Sheila Sealy Monteith; we had our Annual Independence Gala. It was an evening of elegance, incredible entertainment and esteemed guests. The evening featured keynote speaker the **Honorable Damion Crawford, Jamaica’s Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism and Entertainment.** Mr. Crawford was h and pointed in articulating his speech. He indicated that “his greatest concern is that Jamaica is losing its fear of God”. He went on to say that “There are three types of freedom”, “The freedom to dream, which is God given; the freedom to be, which is God desired; and the freedom to achieve, which is God pleasing.” He suggested that as a people we are struggling with the freedom to achieve and in doing so we will please God.

The Jamaican Canadian Association 15th Annual Golf classic

The event was held at the Royal Woodbine Golf Club 195 Galaxy Blvd, within minutes of the airport. The turnout was great considering the weather. There were 100 golfers participating in the events. The day started out with registration at 11.00am and by 1.30pm all golfers were set to go. The day ended with a delicious dinner and reception at the course. We look forward to you joining us on the course next year.

SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRESS REPORTS

The following is an update of the Social Service Program that is slated to be operated by CAFCAN as the Board evolves to be fully functional.

Centralized Intake

A vital first step for each client accessing services at the JCA, the intake process is centralized to ensure all clients are appropriately assigned and served. Our Intake and Family Services Worker provides this service in a supportive, empathetic and non-threatening environment. Utilizing a client-centered approach, potential clients seeking services with the organization are required to first complete the intake and assessment process for needs identification and to determine appropriateness and type of service required. Thereafter the case is reviewed and the file assigned to the appropriate counselor to ensure clients receive the most effective service which will be tailored to their specific needs. The Intake Worker works with the CYFS / VAW clinical team. These two departments were merged around the beginning of the new fiscal year.

April 01 – July 31, 2014: 57 new clients came through intake and were successfully disseminated to the 3 full time counselors currently comprising the team.

Challenges: Appointments are being made but clients do not always follow through thereby. This causes delays and backlog within the process.

Parenting Program

The Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) parenting program has been relatively popular with the general population of parents, Schools, child protection agencies within the Greater Toronto Area. As a parent, you face one of the most challenging, and rewarding roles of your life. No matter how much you love your child/children, there will be moments filled with frustration, anger, and at times desperation.

The Parenting Program consists of weekly group, family and individual counselling sessions.

- Counselling staff work with clients to develop personalized strategies and solutions that help to promote hope wellness in the clients, their families and the community at large.
- Constructive approaches to various challenges in life such as stress, anxiety, depression, substance abuse prevention, grief and loss. A wide array of interventions and supports are available with this program, such as Advocacy, and Case Management. “Each individual or family challenge is unique, with respect for client’s values, areas of strength, and preferences.”

Parent Group (Mondays Time: 5:30p.m-7:30p.m.) **Presently in progress,** Parent/Child Group (Thursday Time: 5:30 pm.-7:30p.m.) For Ages 0-12 **TBA**

Violence Against Women (VAW) Program

As we all know, abuse takes forms in many ways including emotional, physical, verbal, sexual, financial, spiritual and psychological. FACT! In 2011, on average, every six days, a woman in Canada is killed by her intimate partner. 67% of Canadians know a woman who has experienced sexual or physical abuse (Statistics Canada). On any day in Canada, more than 3,300 women (along with their 3,000 children) are

What to expect from the Parenting Program: You will meet other parents who share your struggles, and find a safe place to talk about your frustrations. Certification will be awarded upon completion of this 10 weeks program. Parents often form bonds with each other, and remain in touch after the sessions; Connected to meaningful supports and services in the community. **Referrals** can be made by anyone in the community including parents, guardians, social workers and child welfare.

What Every Parent should know: The College of Early Childhood Educators is the professional organization that regulates early childhood educators in Ontario. The College was created by the Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007 and has issued over 50,000 Certificates of Registration. The job of the College is to protect the public by setting entry to practice requirements and ethical and professional standards that early childhood educators must uphold.

forced to sleep in an emergency shelter to escape domestic violence (Shelter Abuse for Women in Canada, 2011).

Goal: The goal of our VAW program is to provide free and confidential services for Women and Children who have been exposed to these forms of abuse. We provide individual/family counseling, safety planning, advocacy, legal support, housing support and referrals to other programs as needed. We also provide these services to immigrant women/children who flee their respective countries due to abusive relationships/situations.

Services: In our individual/family counseling, our service plan focuses on teaching Women and Children skills to help process thoughts and feelings related to their traumatic life events, improve psychological growth and parenting skills. We provide a supportive environment in which they are encouraged to talk about these experiences. We are very proud of our continuous collaboration with other community partners in eradicating violence in our community and beyond. We are available for first time walk-in services; while most of our referrals typically come from family members and community partners.

Employment Services Report

The last three months has seen an increase in the number of clients accessing our services. We held two hiring events that resulted in several of our clients finding sustainable employment. In this challenging economic time, the JCA Employment team continues to match those looking for work with employers who are still eager to hire. The secret to our success is continuous relationship building with our employers as well as our clients.

Tropicana Youth Summer Program

Tropicana renewed their partnership with us and started their summer jobs for youth program at the JCA. The program runs from June 1st until August 29, 2014.

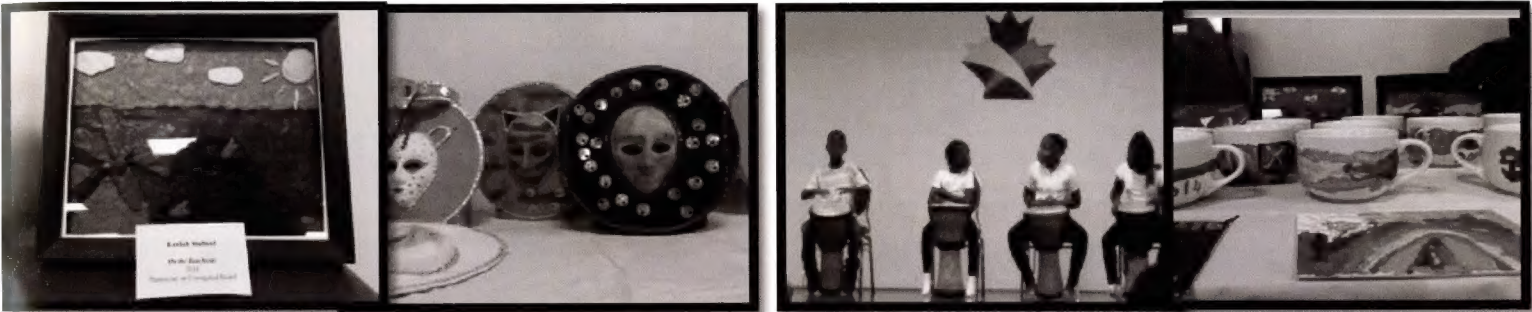
JCA Leaders of Tomorrow Summer Camp

The Leader’s In Partnership program facilitated the 2014 JCA Leaders of Tomorrow summer camp. The six week camp was a fun filled learning experience for the participants. The camp was a partnership with ACCO and The Toronto District School Board. Through this partnership the participants of the camp were able to participate in Caribana themed activities such as dancing, costume making, learning to play the steel pans and drumming. The leadership component of the camp involved problems solving, conflict resolution, decision making, assertive communication and goal-setting activities. There was a surprise visit from the Hon. Judy Sgro, M.P. who treated the campers with various treats. They also went on trips to Canada’s Wonderland and on a tour of G98.7. Guest speakers from the Toronto Public Library, Toronto Public Health, Centre for Addictions and Mental Health as well as the Toronto Fire Department who presented topics surrounding self development, health and safety. The campers also enjoyed a cultural story presented to them by Sandra Whiting.

JCA’s employment program devised and presented a workshop on Professionalism in the Workplace to the camp counselors and supervisors. This workshop contributed immensely to the success of the camp and also prepared these young counselors for this and future employment opportunities. The camp successfully ended with the campers and counselors showcasing their talents, skills and art work at a concert. The campers received parting gifts and certificates for their successful participation in the camp.

Briefs on the Newcomer Settlement Program

The Newcomer Settlement Program at JCA offers settlement services and activities for newly arrived immigrant newcomers as well as Permanent Residents and Canadian citizens alike. The settlement services are provided through needs assessment, general counseling, information and referrals, workshop/information sessions, outreach, access and advocacy, administrative procedures including Community development and education. The above services are mostly offered to individuals in person/telephone and in groups to newcomer clients that migrated primarily from the Caribbean/Africa and elsewhere and reside in Toronto and or in the Greater Toronto Area.








Children of the JCA Leaders of Tomorrow Summer Camp display their creativity in various art forms

At the time of writing this report, **about three hundred clients have assessed the settlement program during the year in most of the settlement services referred above.** It should be noted that the number of newcomer clients accessing the program has reduced significantly over the past few years because of recent changes in immigration policies by the Federal Government. These changes have adversely affected the source countries whereby most of the newcomers seeking settlement services at JCA originated from. However, since Settlement is a continuum process, much settlement services are still offered to clients who have been in the country for a while and are now Permanent Residents or Canadian citizens. Efforts are been made to increase the number of clients accessing the settlement Program, one significant partnership is with the Community and Legal Aid Services Program at York University’s Faculty of Law who is presently operating out of the JCA on Tuesdays offering free legal services primarily on Immigration and Refugee law and other issues for newcomer clients free of cost. Furthermore, in order for the settlement program to gain much publicity in the community, we have also collaborated with a new organization called the “Welcome Pack Canada” to distribute some free products to Permanent Residents in Canada who landed on or after September 1st, 2011.

BBPA & JCA PRESENT
MAYORAL DEBATE
SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2014
STARTING AT 7:00 PM
MODERATED BY FARLEY FLEX


DEBATE TOPICS
Business & Economic Development Black Businesses: Resources & Enablement
Job Creation // Empowerment of Not for Profit Organizations Taxes
Transportation // Gridlock

INVITATION: MAYORAL CANDIDATES

 JOHN TORY	 ROB FORD	 OLIVIA CHOW	 DAVID SOKNACKI	 DEWITT LEE III
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*If you would like to submit questions to the candidates please send them to bbpa@bellnet.ca with subject line: MAYORAL DEBATE QUESTIONS
RSVP for this event: bbpa@bellnet.ca or via phone 416-504-4097

Jamaican Canadian Association, Main Hall
995 Arrow Road, Toronto, Ontario M9M 2Z5
Finch Ave & Weston Rd)


JamaicanCanadianAssociation



Dignitaries gather at the 52nd Annual Flag Raising



L to R: Mr. Monteith, Mario Sergio, Sheila Monteith, B. Coke, Hon Judy Sgro; Mr. R. Williams, Mrs Coke at JCA Independence Gala



L to R: O Grange, Hon. D. Crawford, S. Sylburne; Olivia Chow



Ms. S. Findlay Photo: Mr and Mrs Walker receives Award for 50 Years Service to the JCA



Mr. Roy Williams and Ms. Daphne Bailey at JCA Independence Gala



York Regional Police Service well represented at the JCA Gala



JCA Family Picnic in Cobourg Ontario



JCA's stalwarts at the membership Family Picnic



Gala patrons strike a pose for the camera



Ms. Noeline John is the recipient of the Outstanding Employee Award



Mr. Dwaine Osbourne gets President's Award



Outstanding Achievement Recipient, Dr. Thompson & Olivia Chow



Volunteer of the Year A. Patterson with Mr. Nehemiah Bailey